

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Meeting Room 2 - Darlington Borough Council, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT on **Thursday 14 March 2019 at 2.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors P Crathorne

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones (Vice-Chair) and M Knowles

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr N J H Cooke and Mr D K G Dodwell

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes, Brookes, Nicholson, Savory and Simmons.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner (PCVC) thanked those Members who had managed to attend the meeting held on 1 February 2019, given the inclement weather conditions.

The PCVC referred to the retirement of Mr Barton, Chief Constable, on 7 June 2019 and placed on record his thanks for the outstanding service of Mr Barton to the Durham force. Councillor Hovvels, with unanimous backing of the Panel, endorsed the comments of the PCVC and requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Barton from the Panel.

The PCVC informed the Panel that this would be the last PCP meeting for Jacob Cain before he left the PCVCs office. Councillor Hovvells, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Jacob for the work he had done.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Recent Media Activity

The Panel noted a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on media activity during the period since the last Panel meeting (for copy see file of Minutes).

In response to a question from Mr Dodwell about the how the number of followers on the PCVCs Facebook and Twitter accounts compared with Durham County Council the Head of Policy and Communications replied that the PCVC accounts were in the top five for numbers of followers compared to other PCVCs, however it was not as high as Durham County Council or the police.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 Local Criminal Justice Partnership 'One year on'

The Panel received a presentation from Jeanne Trotter, Durham and Cleveland Criminal Justice Programme Lead which provided an update on the progress of the Local Criminal Justice Partnership Plan (for copy of slides see file of minutes).

Mr Cooke referred to the proposed minimum 12-month custodial sentencing and suggested that this did not accord with previous policies of short, sharp shock. The Durham and Cleveland Criminal Justice Programme Lead replied that this was just a suggestion and that if a 12-month sentence was imposed then only 6 months may be served, which afforded little time to work with offenders in prison. Additionally, there was a need to find an effective way to deal with prolific offenders within the community.

The Durham and Cleveland Criminal Justice Programme Lead informed the Panel that the Ministry of Justice had expressed interest in the work which was taking place in Durham.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Quarterly Performance Report

The Panel considered a report of the PCVC and received a presentation which provided an update on performance against the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2018-21 (for report and slides see file of Minutes).

Councillor Jones asked whether there had been a reduction in the number of traffic officers in force, and if so, whether this was in line with other reductions. The PCVC replied that there was a combined Road Policing Unit with Cleveland, and although numbers had been reduced, resilience had been increased.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

8 Focused Report on Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Outcomes - Outcome 3: 'Reoffending is reduced and rehabilitation is improved'

The Panel considered a report of the PCVC and received a presentation which provided a focussed update on Outcome 3 of the PCVC Plan – 'Reoffending is reduced, and rehabilitation is improved' (for copy of report and slides see file of Minutes).

The PCVC informed the Panel that future focussed update reports would be combined with his performance report.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

9 Commissioning Update

The Panel noted a report of the PCVC which advised of decisions taken at the Commissioning Board in December 2018 and set out the business activity of the Board for the financial year 2019/20 (for copy see file of Minutes).

10 PCVC Decision Records

The Panel noted a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on the decision register since the last meeting, and forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

11 Policing and Mental Health: Picking Up the Pieces

The Panel noted a report of the PCVC which provided details of the PCVCs response to the recent inspection report from Her Majesty's Inspector of Policing, Fire and Rescue Services into links between policing and mental health (for copy see file of Minutes).

Prior to closing the meeting the Chairman informed the Panel that it was coming to the year end and thanked the Panel for its contributions throughout the year. The PCVC also thanked the Panel for its support throughout the year and for the impact it had on the work of the PCVC.

